

REMARKS

In the above-referenced Office Action the examiner rejected Claims 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eriksson (US 5,152,757 A) in view of Lockwood et al. (US 6,685,681 B2; hereinafter "Lockwood"). In support of this rejection the Examiner stated, "Regarding claim 14, Eriksson teaches a device capable of both treating and promoting healing of damaged body tissue, said device comprising;

a bodysuit member (60) having each of a predetermined size and a predetermined shape, said body suit (60) having an outer surface facing atmosphere and an inner surface facing a body area of a person to be treated; and

at least one fluid transfer means (88) sealingly engaged with said bodysuit space and disposed in fluid communication with a space located between said inner surface of said bodysuit and said damaged body tissue for allowing communication of at least one predetermined fluid medium to such space disposed between said inner surface of said bodysuit and such damaged body tissue thereby enabling such damaged body tissue (see figs. 9 & 15, below)(col. 20, lines 62-65; col. 21; lines 51-68)(abstract).

Eriksson does not expressly teach that the inner surface of the bodysuit member is textured.

Lockwood teaches a vacuum bandage that includes a wound-contacting layer (20) with a texture (28) which channels fluids (see fig. 16, below).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the textured channels of Lockwood to the system of Eriksson in order to provide fluid flow channels even in portions of the system that are compressed by a wearer's bodyweight, so fluid can circulate.

Regarding claim 15, Eriksson teaches transparency (col. 2, line 34).

Regarding claim 16-18, Eriksson teaches multiple ports (88) (fig. 15).

Regarding claims 19-22, Eriksson teaches that the fluid is a liquid medication, painkiller or both (col. 6, lines 55-68).

Regarding claim 23, Eriksson teaches a bodysuit member (60) that covers an entire body, see figure 15, infra."

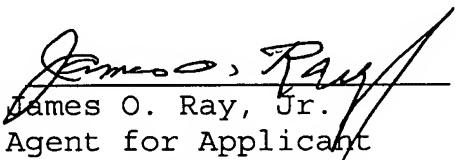
Applicant has now specifically limited independent Claim 14 to recite in sub paragraph (a), "... bodysuit member having each of a predetermined size and a predetermined shape which allows intense aeration with intermittent moist treatment without additional exposure to contaminants..." and in sub paragraph (b)

"a texture formed on said inner surface of said bodysuit member to permit alternating circulation of a ~~predetermined~~ gaseous fluid and a liquid fluid..." and in sub paragraph (c) "...healed in controlled environmental conditions without requiring removal of said bodysuit member." Clearly, these important limitations are neither taught or suggested by the combination of references cited. Accordingly the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections and pass the case to issue.

In the event the Examiner has further difficulties with the allowance of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (412)380-0725 to resolve any remaining questions or issues by interview and/or by Examiner's amendment as to any matter that will expedite the completion of the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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